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Industrial Mexico: 1919 Facts and Figures. By P. HARVEY MIDDLETON. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1919. pp. 270. \$2.00.)

A hopeful outlook on material Mexico is the summed up impression which the reader derives from this timely book of information. From the opening statement: "Mexico is on the eve of the greatest era of development and prosperity that the country has ever seen", to the end, an optimistic note is sounded. This optimism is based on the assumption that peace must soon come, from the inside preferably, but if not, then from the outside, to the revolution-torn country. Be this as the future shall reveal; the hope of stabilization rests on abundant bases of success, and with that realized, must come what Mr. Middleton predicts.

Mexico's foreign debt, about which we wag our heads so dismally, is trivial compared with her numberless resources. In spite of bandits, the country is "coming back"; her trade is about 80 per cent with the United States; her resources must be developed largely with our capital, hence we must have sane, rational legislation in Mexico which will insure the safety of our old investments and assure the extension of our new ones.

In the development of the foregoing thesis, the author places at the reader's disposal in a dozen chapters the most compact, authoritative, and readable account of general business conditions in the southern republic that has come to notice. Adequate space is given to the latest information on transportation, the oil industry, mines, agriculture, timber, trade opportunities, and sugar and coffee plantations. Under each of these items the opportunity for investment of American capital is set forth without allurements or misrepresentation, and with adequate statement of the physical conditions under which investors must operate. The business and legal phases of the problem are presented in chapters which discuss in turn the questions of credit and banking, the national debt, and the Constitution of 1917, with a brief summary of the operation of the government departments and institutions.

One can only wish that, the facts being as the author states them, the potential prosperity were actually at hand. Unfortunately, the trend of current events indicates some postponement of the solution of many problems which lie back of material prosperity. Yet out of the ruck and confusion of our relations with Mexico stand certain palpable truths which ought to give us hope. First of all we should re-

member that, badly as Mexico needs us, we also need her. If the need be mutual, then good temper and right treatment on both sides are equally imperative. For ourselves, we should believe that the Mexicans, like the Americans, are people, that they want peaceful and amicable relations, not as a colony of the United States, but as a free and independent people whose destiny should remain in their own hands. If we can be convinced that they are amenable to respectful, direct, and courteous treatment, we shall be able to drop the suspicious truculency of our recent relations, and find a way to live as neighbors and friends.

HERBERT INGRAM PRIESTLEY.

Mexico Under Carranza. By THOMAS EDWARD GIBBON. (New York: Doubleday Page and Company, 1919. 270 pages. \$1.50.)

The author sets forth admirably the many material services which foreign capital has rendered in Mexico. The emphasis is placed on the benefits which have accrued to Mexico rather than to capital. We may assume then that the latter are taken for granted, since no one can be expected to believe that foreign investments have not been highly gainful, some of them even under the extremely difficult conditions of recent years. On the other hand no one would seek to argue that much foreign as well as national capital has not suffered severe losses during the decade just closing, or that the conditions which surround industry do not need thoroughgoing improvement.

The description of these conditions by Mr. Gibbon is based on current Mexican newspaper reports. There is no likelihood that these reports are incorrect in their general content. Many of the items cited are taken from papers not unfriendly to the revolution, and it is hardly conceivable that they were printed by those papers as indictments of the Carranza régime. The facts recounted were looked upon as news items, accounts of conditions which need correction, the usual gatherings of reports of extraordinary or sensational news value intended to make the papers salable. We are not unfamiliar with that system of news gathering in the United States. But we do not set ourselves to garnering all the horrors of the news sheets in support of the thesis that our actual government is the cause of them. We need to bear in mind that while the government is and must be responsible for evil conditions (or there would be no civic responsibility left in the world), yet there are contributory circumstances which make that responsibility especially arduous, and that the cumulative influ-